

## 2008 Legislative Alert

This notice is an official public policy announcement of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii.

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Editor: Kelly M. Rosati, JD

### Hawaii Lawmakers Voted ONCE AGAIN in Support of Bill that Would FORCE a Religiously-Affiliated Hospital to Dispense Early Abortion Pills

Once again, Hawaii lawmakers are poised to force the Hawaii Medical Centers (HMC) to violate their operating agreement with the Catholic St. Francis Healthcare Systems by forcing HMC to provide "emergency contraceptives" to patients who present as sex assault victims.

The problem: emergency contraceptives can cause early abortions in pregnant women and, as such, are strictly prohibited under Catholic ethical and religious directives.

The House Finance Committee heard testimony on Wednesday, February 27th. Despite strong testimony from St. Francis Healthcare Systems and Hawaii Medical Centers, the Committee passed the bill — **without the exemption**. ([Click here to read current version of the bill.](#))

We want to thank Representative(s) Magaoay, Manahan, Tokioka, Meyer, and Pine for their "no" votes. Thanks also go to the Lingle Administration and its opposition to the measure. [Click here for the status of the bill and to see the list of legislators who supported this violation of religious liberty.](#)

#### TAKE ACTION

HB 466 HD 1 now goes to the full House for consideration. Please KINDLY and CALMLY **call and e-mail YOUR OWN REPRESENTATIVE and urge them to oppose HB 466 HD1 because it does not contain a religious exemption.**

- ([Click here for a listing of all Representatives and their contact information.](#))
- ([Click here if you do not know who your legislator is.](#))

#### Talking points:

- HB 466 HD 1 violates the religious freedom rights of an important member of the community that has been providing health care to Hawaii's most vulnerable people since 1927 – St. Francis Healthcare.
- If the government can mandate that a religious hospital dispense abortion pills, it could also mandate that same religious hospital perform surgical abortion. This is a bad precedent.

[Please send us a quick e-mail letting us know you took action.](#) We can't stop this bill without your help!

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